

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-11 OMB-01 SAM-01

SAJ-01 SAB-01 SCCT-01 DHA-02 /081 W

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O 021025Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8447

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1047

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. WHILE FIRST DAY OF MARONITE "SUMMIT" MEETING AT KASLIK ON SATURDAY RESULTED IN A COMMUNIQUE FROM SIX MARONITE FACTION LEADERS PLUS GREEK ORTHODOX CHARLES MALIK WHICH APPEARED TO THREATEN NON-COMPLIANCE WITH AGREEMENT, SECOND MEETING SUNDAY WAS ATTENDED BY FRANGIE ADVISER LUCIEN DAHDAH AND RESULTED IN COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN SYRIAN INITIATIVE IN CONTEXT OF SYRIAN GUARANTEE OF PALESTINIAN RESPECT FOR CAIRO AND MELKART AGREEMENTS. EMBOFF, WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN KASLIK, WAS TOLD BY KNOWLEDGEABLE INFORMANT THAT GROUP HAS INDEED DECIDED TO GO ALONG WITH FRANGIE AND AGREEMENT SIMPLY BECAUSE THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE. HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO GET OVERTONES OF BITTERNESS ON THIS SCORE AND A GOOD DEAL OF INFIGHTING AMONG CHRISTIAN LEADERS CAN BE EXPECTED AS THEY VIE FOR POSITIONS OF

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PRIMACY AMONG THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT.

2. ANOTHER INTERESTING EVENT THIS WEEKEND WAS BOMBARDMENT BY SAIQA ELEMENTS OF IRAQI-SUBSIDIZED NEWSPAPERS AL MONARRER AND BEIRUT, WHICH RESULTED IN SIX NEWSMEN DEAD (INCLUDING MOHARRER'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF), SEVEN WOUNDED AND HEAVY DAMAGE TO THE PREMISES OF THOSE PAPERS. PUBLIC EXPLANATION CHANGED A COUPLE OF TIMES. THERE WAS EFFORT FIRST TO BLAME PALESTINIAN REJECTIONIST FRONT ELEMENTS FOR HAVEING STARTED THE FRACAS, BUT FINAL STATEMENT BLAMED THE ATTACK ON "UNDISCIPLINED" SAIQA ELEMENTS. THE CONVOLUTED PUBLIC EXPLANATION CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO OUTCRY AMONG MOSLEMS AT WHAT HAPPENED. KHADDAM AND AKRAME HAVE SEVERAL TIMES INDICATED TO NEWSMEN, HOWEVER, THAT SELF-DISCIPLINE IS EXPECTED IN NEWS REPORTING TO ASSIST ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE.

3. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETS IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS FRANGIE'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS AS WELL AS OTHER MATTERS SUCH AS POLITICAL REFORM. HIGHER SECURITY COMMITTEE HAS TURNED SOME ATTENTION TO KIDNAPPING PROBLEMS, ASKING THAT REGIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEES TAKE COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES IN THIS FIELD TO PREVENT FUTURE KIDNAPPING AS WELL AS REASSURE RETURN OF KIDNAPPED PERSONS WITHOUT BARGAINING OVER THEIR RELEASE. WE LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS AS IT MIGHT BE MADE TO APPLY TO GALLAGHER AND DYKES.

4. DAO REPORTS THAT ARMY HAS AGREED TO TEN PER CENT OF ITS EFFECTIVES GOING ON LEAVE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE EMERGENCY BEGAN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT01047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760038-0800
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760293/aaaaddrk.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by woolfhd>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 0900 LEBANON REPORT
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE, (MALIK, CHARLES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006